

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 00122 081231Z

17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 081206Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5559

S E C R E T LISBON 0122

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: CUBAN FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA

REF: (A) LISBON 0010, (B) STATE 004285, (C) LISBON 0091

1. MAJ CALDAS, THE PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF CABINET, TOLD DATT JAN 6 THAT FOLLOWING OUR DISCUSSION WITH HIM REGARDING THE CUBAN FLIGHTS HE HAD SPOKEN TO PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED TO DIRECT MELO ANTUNES TO STOP FLIGHTS.

2. ASKED BY TV NEWSMAN EVENING JAN 7 TO COMMENT ON USE OF AZORES BY CUBANS, COOPERATION MINISTER VITOR CRESPO SAID THAT REFUELING OF CUBAN AIRCRAFT WAS ROUTINE AND COMPLETELY WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS WITH CUBA PROVIDING FOR SERVICING CUBAN FLIGHTS TO EUROPE AND AFRICA. CRESPO ADDED THAT REFUELING IN NO WAY COMPROMISED PORTUGUESE POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IN ANGOLA.

3. IN VIEW OF CRESPO'S COMMENT, I PLAN TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH PRIME MINISTER TODAY. RE PARA 2 OF REF (B) WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS TOUCH WITH THE SOCIALISTS (PS) AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS ON THIS ISSUE. THEY SUPPORT OUR POSITION AND ARE TAKING ACTION ON THEIR OWN. PS DEPUTY GAMA'S QUESTION TO THE GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE FLIGHTS (REF C) WAS PROBABLY ONE RESULT OF OUR APPROACHES TO THE PARTIES.

CARLUCCI

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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